**CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT**

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BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND, ROMANIA
AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Letter dated 2 April 1969 from the Representatives of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, of the Polish People's Republic, of the Socialist Republic of Romania and of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

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We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Appeal by the States Members of the Warsaw Pact to all European countries, adopted at the Conference of the Political Consultative Committee in Budapest on 17 March 1969.

We request you to arrange for the above-mentioned Appeal by the States Members of the Warsaw Pact to all European countries to be circulated by the Secretariat as an official document of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

Yours etc.,

(signed) Krum CHRISTOV,
Representative of the People's Republic of Bulgaria

(signed) Dr. Milan KLUZAK,
Representative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

(signed) Henryk JAROSZEK,
Representative of the Polish People's Republic

(signed) Dr. Nicolae ECOBESCO,
Representative of the Socialist Republic of Romania

(signed) Aleksei A. ROSHCHIN,
Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

# APPEAL

## BY THE STATES MEMBERS OF THE WARSAW PACT TO ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

The People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic - the States Members of the Warsaw Pact - participants in the Conference of the Political Consultative Committee, expressing the aspirations of their peoples to live in peace and good-neighbourliness with the rest of the European peoples, as well as their firm resolve to assist in establishing an atmosphere of security and co-operation on our continent, address to all European States the following appeal for the redoubling of efforts aimed at strengthening peace and security in Europe.

The present and the future of the peoples of Europe is indissolubly linked with the maintenance and consolidation of peace on our continent. Genuine security and reliable peace can be ensured, if the thoughts, pursuits and energy of the European States are directed towards the aim of relaxing tension, solving with due regard to realities international problems that are ripe for solution and arranging for all-round co-operation on an All-European basis.

The way to good-neighbourliness, confidence and mutual understanding depends on the will and efforts of the peoples and governments of all European countries. The Europe of today, as it came out of the Second World War, is made up of more than thirty States, large and small, differing according to their social system, location and interests. By the will of history they are destined to live side by side, and no one can change this fact.

More and more governments, parliaments, Parties, political and social leaders are imbued with understanding of the responsibility that lies upon them before present and future generations for the prevention of a new military conflict in Europe. However, there are still active in Europe forces which put on the credit side of European development, not the settlement of disputes and peaceful agreements, but additional divisions and missiles, and new military programmes calculated for decades in advance. Also active together with them are those who have not drawn the proper lessons from the outcome of the Second World War, as a result of which German militarism and nazism were crushed. Their intrigues are a source of tension and bring complications into international relations.

The States participating in the Conference consider it their duty, in future also, to do all that lies in their power to shield Europe from the danger of new military conflicts, to clear the way for the development of co-operation among all European countries irrespective of their social system, on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence.

However complex unsolved problems may be, their solution must be achieved by peaceful means through negotiation and not through the use, or threat of the use, of force.

In analysing the situation in Europe, the States Members of the Warsaw Pact consider that there is a real possibility of ensuring European security through common efforts, taking into account the interests of all European States and peoples.

Almost three years ago States Members of the Warsaw Pact put forward at Bucharest a proposal to convoke a general European conference to consider questions of European security and peaceful co-operation. The contacts which have taken place since then have shown that not a single European government expressed opposition to the idea of a general European conference and that there are real possibilities of holding one. Not once since the Second World War have all the States of Europe come together, although there are numerous questions which await consideration at the conference table. From the standpoint of the interests of consolidating peace, there are no serious reasons for putting off the convening of a general European conference.

Such a conference would meet the interests of all European States. It would make it possible together to find ways and means of doing away with the division of Europe into military groupings and achieving peaceful co-operation among European States and peoples.

However, there are forces in the world which, because they seek to maintain the division of our continent, conduct a policy of fomenting tension, and refuse to facilitate peaceful co-operation among States and peoples, openly oppose the holding of such a conference and other measures to strengthen European security.

The States participating in the present Conference are convinced that the development of general European co-operation has been and continues to be the only real alternative to dangerous military confrontation, the armaments race and the dissensions which aggressive forces, seeking to undo the results of the Second World War and re-make the map of Europe, are trying and will continue to try to impose on Europe.

The States Members of the Warsaw Pact confirm their proposals against the division of the world into military blocs, against the armaments race and the resultant threat to the cause of international peace and security, and the other measures and proposals contained in the Declaration on the strengthening of Peace and Security in Europe adopted at Bucharest in 1966.

It is a vital necessity, for the European peoples, to avert new military conflicts, and to strengthen the political, economic and cultural links between all States on the basis of equal rights and respect for the independence and sovereignty of States. A durable system of European security will create the objective possibility and necessity of carrying out, by combined efforts, large-scale projects in the fields of power production, of transport, of the hydrospheric and atmospheric environment and of health, which have a direct bearing on the well-being of the population of the entire continent. It is precisely this common interest which can and should become the foundation for European co-operation.

One of the basic pre-conditions for safeguarding the security of Europe is the inviolability of the existing European frontiers, including the Oder-Neisse frontiers and those between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, recognition of the fact of the existence of those two countries, renunciation by the latter of its claims to represent the whole of the German people, and renunciation of possession in any form of nuclear weapons. West Berlin has a special status and does not belong to Western Germany.

A practical step towards strengthening European security would be a meeting in the immediate future between representatives of all the European States concerned in order to establish by mutual agreement the procedure for convening the Conference and to determine the items on its agenda. We are prepared to consider at the same time any other proposal regarding the method for preparing and convening the Conference.

The States participating in the Conference of the Political Consultative Committee address to all the countries of Europe an appeal for co-operation in convening a general European conference and in creating the necessary preconditions for ensuring that the Conference is successful and that it justifies the hopes which the peoples connect with it.

In order to bring about this important action, which would constitute an historical moment in the life of the continent, the States participating in the Conference make a solemn appeal to all European countries to strengthen the climate of confidence, and to that end to refrain from any action liable to poison the atmosphere in relations between States. They call upon them to go beyond general statements about peace to concrete acts and measures for the relaxation of tension and disarmament, for the development of co-operation and peace between the peoples. They appeal to all European governments to unite their efforts so that Europe may become a continent of fruitful collaboration between nations possessing equal rights, and a factor for stability, peace and mutual understanding throughout the world.

For the People's Republic of Bulgaria

Todor JHIVKOV

First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria

For the Hungarian People's Republic

Janos KADAR

First Secretary of the CC of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party

Enë FOK

Chairman of the Hungarian Revolutionary Workers and Peasants Government

For the German Democratic Republic

Walter ULBRICHT

First Secretary of the CC of the Socialist Unitary Party of Germany, President of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic

Willy STOFF

Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic

For the Polish People's Republic

Wladyslaw GOMULKA

First Secretary of the CC of the Polish United Workers Party

Josef CYRANKIEWICZ

Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic

For the Socialist Republic of Romania

Nikolae CEAUSESCU

General Secretary of the CC of the Romanian Communist Party, President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania

Ion Gheorghe MAURER

Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Romania

For the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

L.I. BREJHNEV

General Secretary of the CC of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

A.N. KOSYGIN

Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR

For the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

Ludwik SVOBODA

President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

Alexander DUBČEK

First Secretary of the CC of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia

Oldřich ČERNIK

Chairman of the Federal Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

Budapest, 17 March 1969.